

# The 5 **Do**s and **Don't**s of Flood Safety

**Do** monitor you children around Utah's waterways during spring snowmelt runoff. These waterways are flowing cold and fast, and pose a significant threat to young children.

**Do** use good judgment when recreating on or near waterways swollen by spring snowmelt runoff. The temperature of the water will be just over freezing. If imersed, hypothermia will set in and within two minutes and you'll lose the ability to pull yourself from the water.

**Do** be aware of thunderstorm activity, which could lead to a rapid rise of rivers and streams. Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio or your favorite news source for vital weather information.

**Do** be aware of cold reservoir lake temperatures when swimming. Hypothermia may reduce your ability to swim long stretches in open water.

**Do** learn how to protect yourself from floods and flash floods. Visit the Turn Around Don't Drown Web site: [www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd).

**Don't** underestimate the force and power of water! Each year nationwide, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related hazard.

**Don't** attempt to swim in mountain streams and rivers during spring snowmelt runoff. The water is moving at more than 10 miles an hour, with a great deal of force. Additionally, water temperatures just above freezing can quickly lead to hypothermia.

**Don't** drive or walk on a flooded road. You will not know the depth of the water, or the condition of the road under the water.

**Don't** allow children to play around swollen waterways.

**Don't** camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes if there is a threat of flooding.